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"UD's 140-Year History Contains a Cornucopia of Little-Known Facts" (1990). *News Releases*. 6967.  
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# featuring UD

*Story ideas for print and broadcast media*  
March 12, 1990

## UD'S 140-YEAR HISTORY CONTAINS A CORNUCOPIA OF LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

UD is celebrating more than an MCC championship and NCAA bid this week. On Sunday, March 18, UD will commemorate the 140th anniversary of the founding of the school. Known at various times as St. Mary's School for Boys, St. Mary's Institute and St. Mary's College, the University assumed its present identity in 1920. From the University's archives comes a wealth of little-known "trivia" about UD. The highlights:

- o After some of the earliest Marianists reached Dayton after a 22-hour canal boat trip from Cincinnati, they had to make their own beds from boards, sawbucks and rope, and they stuffed bags with straw and sewed them together for pillows.
- o When St. Mary's School for Boys opened in July 1850, students sat on planks nailed together since they had no desks or benches.
- o Lawrence Butz, the first student to register for classes, later became a two-term mayor of Dayton.
- o In the school's early days, when classes let out, the teachers would have to plow, take manure out to the field, or take home the wheat harvested that day.
- o The school bought the land now known as Baujan Field in 1883 from John H. Patterson, who, with the capital from the purchase, founded the National Cash Register Company.
- o The week after the 1913 flood, between 400 and 600 Dayton residents took refuge on high land--in St. Mary Hall.
- o In the 1920s, mandatory chapel services began at 7 a.m. Students were restricted to campus, but they could get permission to leave on Wednesday afternoons, Saturdays or Sundays.
- o The week before a "college hop" during Prohibition, senior chemistry majors stayed in the lab after hours to squeeze orange and lemon juice to mix with gin or grain alcohol. Brother William Wohlleben, head of the chemistry department, would smile knowingly and say, "It seems I signed for a lot of grain alcohol, but I never see anyone using it."
- o UD began admitting women in 1935; in 1950, women made up one-sixth of the student body. In 1989-90, approximately half of the freshman class were women--the first time UD ever achieved that balance.



*The University of Dayton*

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.